

The Sword In The Hands Of Stephen

Acts 7:51-60

1

The Bible stresses the importance of peace.

1. God is the *"God of peace."*
1 Thessalonians 5:23
2. Christ is the *"Prince of peace."* Isaiah 9:6
3. Zacharias, prophesied that the Lord would bring peace to the obedient. Luke 1:76-79
4. When Christ was born, the heavenly host sang, *"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased"* Luke 2:14
5. The mission of Jesus was to bring peace.
Ephesians 2:13-14; John 8:32

2

Not all peace is desirable or approved by Christ.

1. It should be noted that there is a type of peace that Jesus did NOT come to bring, and that is a FALSE peace. Matthew 10:34; cf. Luke 12:49-53
2. He would never advocate peace at the expense of truth. James 3:17; cf. Jeremiah 6:14

3

Stephen's Sermon: Preached Like Paul. 1 Corinthians 9:16; 1 Corinthians 2:2

- ▶ Filled with Scripture. Romans 1:16; Acts 18:24-28
- ▶ Spoke with sincerity and conviction. 2 Corinthians 4:1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
- ▶ Manifested proper attitude. Ephesians 4:15; 1 Peter 3:15
 - Proper attitude is often decisive. Acts 14:1-3
- ▶ Stephen did not "preach the gospel and let others alone."
 - Followed the example of Jesus. Matthew 15:12; chapter 23

4

Stephen's Sermon: Preached Like Paul. 1 Corinthians 9:16; 1 Corinthians 2:2

- ▶ Stephen did not "preach the gospel and let others alone."
 - Followed the example of the Apostles. Acts 3:12ff; 4:8ff; 4:18-29; 5:27-32; 5:40-42
 - Later, Paul followed the example of Stephen.

5

Stephen's Sermon: Preached Like Paul. 1 Corinthians 9:16; 1 Corinthians 2:2

- ▶ Consistent with the design of the gospel. Romans 3:23; James 1:18ff; Ephesians 1:13
 - It must be applied to the sinner, whether it is immorality or doctrinal error. cf. Luke 5:31; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Timothy 2:17-18
- ▶ Stephen engaged in negative preaching.
 - He told the Jews they were wrong.
 - Jesus. Matthew 7:1; John 7:24; Matthew 22:29
 - cf. Peter. Acts 2:15
 - Paul's instructions to Timothy. 2 Timothy 4:2

6

Stephen's Sermon: Preached Like Paul. 1 Corinthians 9:16; 1 Corinthians 2:2

- ▶ Stephen exposed specific sins.
 - Jesus. *"Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity"* Hebrews 1:9
 - Paul. *"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good"* Romans 12:9
 - David, *"Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way"* Psalms 119:104

7

Stephen's Sermon: Preached Like Paul. 1 Corinthians 9:16; 1 Corinthians 2:2

- ▶ Stephen was silenced but his message lived on through others.
 - The word is living. Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:25; Heb. 4:12
- ▶ He was stoned outside the city. Leviticus 24:14
- ▶ We are introduced to the young man Saul. Acts 7:58; cf. Acts 22:20

8

Stephen's Death. Acts 7:54-60

- ▶ Followed the example of Jesus.
 - No help coming. John 17:26; Matthew 26:39; 27:46
 - Prayed for his persecutors. cf. Luke 23:34
- ▶ He *"fell asleep."* cf. John 11:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13
 - Suggests rest. cf. Revelation 13:14
 - Suggest the resurrection. cf. Luke 16:19-31

9

Stephen's Hope. Acts 7:54-60

"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." cf. Phil. 1:23-24; 2 Corinthians 5:8

Job 19:25-27, *"But as for me I know that my Redeemer liveth, And at last he will stand up upon the earth: And after my skin, (even) this (body), is destroyed, Then without my flesh shall I see God. Whom I, even I, shall see, on my side, And mine eyes shall behold, and not as a stranger. My heart is consumed within me."*
Psalms 17:15, *"As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness."* NKJV

10

Stephen's Hope. Acts 7:54-60

Psalms 49:15, *"But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, For He shall receive me."* NKJV
Psalms 73:24, *"Thou wilt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory."*
Proverbs 14:32, *"The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death."* KJV

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